

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claims 1-6, 8-31 and 34-36 are allowable and that claims 40, 41, 52 and 54 contain patentable subject matter. Claims 37 and 55 have been amended. Claims 38-40 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-31, 34-37, and 41-55 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 37, 42-45, 47-51, 53 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alioshin et al. ("Alioshin," U.S. Patent No. 5,986,634). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. It is noted that in the Office Action it appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 42, 48, 49 and 55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on a combination of Alioshin and Hall et al. ("Hall," U.S. Patent No. 5, 751, 548). See, Office Action, page 4, section 3.

Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 38-40. Claim 55 has been amended to include a limitation similar to claim 40. In the Office Action, at page 5, section 8, the Examiner indicated that dependent claim 40 includes allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 37 and 55 are believed to be allowable over Alioshin and Alioshin in view of Hall.

Claims 42-45, 47-51 and 53 depend from claim 37 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 37 and are therefore allowable over Alioshin for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to claim 37.

Accordingly, claims 37, 42-45, 47-51, 53 and 55 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and allowance of claims 37, 42-45, 47-51, 53 and 55 is respectfully requested.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 46 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Alioshin in view of Shimpuku et al. (“Shimpuku,” U.S. Patent No. 5,745,582). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 46 depends from claim 37 and incorporates all of the limitations of claim 37 and is therefore allowable over Alioshin in view of Shimpuku for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to claim 37. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claim 46 is respectfully requested.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s finding that claims 1-6, 8-31 and 34-36 are allowable and that claims 40, 41, 52 and 54 contain patentable subject matter.

4. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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